

Remarks

Claim 1 and 6 are amended. Claims 1 to 10 are pending in this application of which only claims 1 and 6 are in independent form.

Applicants' attorney expresses his thanks to Examiner Tung for the telephone conference held on September 4, 2003 at which time Examiner Tung expressed the view that claims 1 and 6 do not correspond to FIG. 1 of the drawings.

The inventors have now been consulted and claims 1 and 6 are amended herein so that they should now correspond to FIG. 1 of the drawings. Thus, claim 1 now defines the circuit means with the following clause:

"circuit means for applying pregiven voltages to said electrodes, respectively, and for generating, in a controlled manner, the following: a first oxygen pump current between said first oxygen pump electrode (8) and said external pump electrode (13); a second oxygen pump current from said second oxygen pump electrode (9) via said first oxygen pump electrode (8) to said external pump electrode (13); and, a nitrogen pump current from said nitrogen oxide pump electrode (10) via said first oxygen pump electrode (8) to said external pump electrode (13);" (reference numerals added)

With the above amendment, it is clear that the second oxygen pump current flows from the second oxygen pump electrode (9) via the first oxygen pump electrode (8) to the external pump electrode (13) and the nitrogen oxide pump current flows from the nitrogen oxide pump electrode (10) via the first oxygen pump

electrode (8) to the external pump electrode (13).

In view of the above, claim 1 should now be coextensive with applicants' FIG. 1. Claim 6 has been similarly amended so that this claim too should now correspond to FIG. 1.

The application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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